

Physician. There is also an Ayurvedic Dispensary at Kuzhittura receiving grant from the Government. Such of those as have a predilection for the Ayurvedic system of treatment may get treatment in that institution."

Subsequent to that, the question of the treatment of patients in the Martandam Hospital has been under correspondence. Your remarks with reference to the opening of a hospital at Kuzhittura will be noted in disposing of that correspondence.

III. Some observations on the Medical Department with special reference to the Kottayam District Hospital.

Rev. P. J. John (Member, Nominated) spoke about the defects of the Medical Department. The chief defects that he pointed out were :—

1. the unwillingness of the officers of the department to attend on patients who could not pay anything ;
2. the want of medicines in hospitals during certain months in the year—especially in the Kottayam hospital ;
3. the inferior quality of the medicines now supplied as compared with those supplied in former years ; and
4. the absence of the necessary instruments in certain hospitals.

The medicines due to the Kottayam hospital for 1099 were supplied in only Makaram last.

He also stated that it was reported that only the same quantities of medicines were supplied now as those supplied many years ago, although the number of patients in the hospitals had increased much. He requested the Government to see that the above defects were remedied as far as possible and also made the following suggestions for the improvement of medical aid :—

- (1) employment of more European nursing sisters ;
- (2) training of more midwives at the rate of one per each *pakuthi*, with a grant of Rs. 5 per mensem to start with ;
- (3) prohibition of medical practice by quacks ; and
- (4) employment of resident medical officers in all important towns such as Quilon, Alleppey and Kottayam.

Lastly, the Member referred to certain defects of the Kottayam District Hospital, such as the want of sufficient buildings, the want of a lying-in ward and the absence of water in the Hospital well during the summer season. He requested that medicines and medical instruments be supplied to that hospital direct from Trivandrum.

President's reply.—One of the important charges that you make against the Medical Department is the shortage of medicines in all hospitals of the State and the hardships caused to the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja thereby. You say that medicines for the Kottayam hospital for the year 1099 were supplied only in the month of Makaram. The usual practice is to send the necessary quantity of medicines which would last for 12 months in one instalment. If the medicines sent to a hospital run short in any part of the year and if the Medical Officer in charge sends a supplementary indent for them, these medicines will be supplied from the Medical Stores. If there is shortage of medicine in a particular hospital, you cannot say that the Darbar Physician is not sending medicines to the hospitals. How can the head of the department know of this before he is informed of the same ?

With regard to the supply of surgical instruments, I may say that in all big hospitals they have been supplied, except a few instruments which are required for very rare operations, and those instruments, when required by the Medical officers who are in need of them, will be sent from here. Moreover, the Darbar Physician says that there is no use of keeping these costly instruments in all hospitals as they are not necessary.

With regard to your request for the construction of a lying-in ward, in the Kottayam Hospital I see that there is a recommendation before the Government from the Darbar Physician about the construction of a pay ward and a surgical ward.

With regard to the appointment of a resident Medical Officer at Kottayam, the Darbar Physician says that there are now three Medical officers there and that it is their duty to work by turns, so that there may always be some body to be in charge of the patients. The Darbar Physician promises to enquire whether this is not the practice now, and if not, to issue the necessary instructions in the matter.

Orders will be issued for the sinking of a well in the Kottayam hospital.

With regard to your representation that there is not sufficient accommodation in the Kottayam hospital, the Darbar Physician has sent up a report to the Government on the subject and the Government will pass orders after considering his report.

Your other suggestions along with those relating to the appointment of nurses in all hospitals are noted.

112. Need for deputing a male and a female attendant in each hospital to wait on Cheramar patients.

Mr. Paradi Abraham Isaac (Member, Nominated) as the Secretary of the Travancore Ancient Dravidian Races League, conveyed the thanks of the league for the proposal to appoint a special officer as the protector of the depressed classes. As the vital need of the depressed classes was land and as the Land Revenue Commissioner alone could supply that need, he prayed that Mr. Robinson might be appointed *ex officio* special officer for the depressed classes, especially because he, as Devicolam Commissioner, had become intimately acquainted with the economic condition of those classes who were mostly employed as coolies in the Devicolam Division.

The Member stated that, at the two previous sessions of the Assembly, he had represented the need for the change of name of his race from 'Pulaya' into 'Cheramar'. The Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church, the Roman Catholic Church authorities and the Anglican Church had approved the terms 'Cheramar' and 'Sambavar' being used in their utterances and communications instead of 'Pulayas' and 'Parayas' respectively. He therefore requested that orders might be passed for the terms 'Cheramar' and 'Sambavar' being used in all official correspondence instead of the terms 'Pulaya' and 'Paraya' respectively and that notifications to that effect be published in the Gazette on the lines of the Notification regarding the change of the name 'Shanar' into 'Nadar'.

The Member also requested that two representatives from his community might be made members of the Legislative Council.

The Member then pointed out that the full fee concession sanctioned to Cheramar students in High Schools was not by itself sufficient to promote the education of his community and prayed for full fee concession being granted to Cheramar students in all the Government Colleges, as also in aided schools and all technical schools in the State. He suggested that a scheme of scholarships to be called 'Cheramar Scholarships' be instituted for the benefit of the students belonging to his community, consisting of five scholarships of the value of Rs. 7 each in each taluk for secondary education and three scholarships of the value of Rs. 15 each in each division for collegiate education. He stated that the Governments of Mysore and Cochin had passed orders for exempting all the students of the depressed classes from the payment of examination and admission fees as also the free supply of books, slates, and clothing, and for making provision for midday meal, etc., and the Member requested that similar concessions might be extended to them in Travancore also. Referring to the order of the Mysore Government 11180-250 Edn. 498-20-1, dated the 25th May 1921, *re.* the education of the depressed classes, the Member said that special schools—both Vernacular and English—were absolutely necessary for spreading education among the Cheramar and other depressed communities, since it would be difficult for them to pursue their studies side by side with the higher classes of the Hindu community who observed untouchability.

In conclusion, the Member prayed that the educational concessions referred to by him be allowed to his community until it produced at least fifty graduates who would guide the community and instil into them the spirit of self-help, making them independent of all concessions at the hands of the Government in due course.